

B<sup>1</sup>

-With the above-described embodiments, a thermoplastic elastomer with a hardness of 70° (by the measuring method for hardness set forth in JIS (Japan Industrial Standard) A) and EPDM rubber material were used for the roller portions 16d and 17d of the first discharging roller 16 and the second discharging roller 17, but with the present embodiment, further improvement in transporting precision can be achieved by setting the friction coefficient  $\mu$  of the roller portions 17d of the second discharging roller 17 situated farthest downstream in the sheet transporting direction as to the sheet P so as to be greater than the friction coefficient  $\mu$  of the roller portions 16d of the first discharging roller 16 situated further upstream in the sheet transporting direction as to the sheet P.-

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 20, line 7 and ending at line 19 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

B<sup>2</sup>

-With the present embodiment, EPDM with a hardness of 50° was used for the roller portions 17d of the second discharging roller 17, and an elastomer with a hardness of 90° was used for the roller portions 16d of the first discharging roller 16. The friction coefficient  $\mu$  of the two as to the sheet P was 1.2 for the former and 0.8 for the latter, and in the event that the same pressing force is applied, the article with a hardness of 50° is capable of applying a greater transporting force to the sheet P. Accordingly, the degree of bearing on the precision of transporting sheets P with the second discharging